

The Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Council
of Probate Courts Judges

Volume 18, Number 1

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The GAVEL



Fall 2012



COURT NEWS!

Judge Tony Thomas
Editor

Marla S. Moore
Director

Derrick B Bryant
Graphic Designer



Dear Judges,

HAPPY FALL! Cooler weather is just ahead, I hope! Issues have been heating up lately in regards to the Probate Courts that need all of our attention.

The "Circuit State Courts" issue is a concern for all of us and I thank you all for your immediate responses. As your Executive committee has followed this issue across the state we are finding State Court Judges, Superior Court Judges, Legislators and County Commissioners who are aware of our stand. Good Job on getting the word out!

The task (issue) of updating our Georgia Probate Court Standard Forms has been a huge job. We need to thank Judge Pam Ferguson and the Forms Committee for staying on top of it.

The issue of training provided at the New Judges Orientation was reviewed and our program was totally revamped. Judge Tammy Brown and the Training Council deserve kudos for all their hard work. With nearly 50 new judges this year we have the issue of needing trained Mentors. If you have not considered mentoring, please do.

Our Judges Accreditation program has been a sticky issue for some but I believe that most of us are coming to accept the fact that this is good thing and not as hard as we thought it would be. No one likes to take tests but once you have your certification I am sure you will be proud of it!

There are many other issues which are too numerous to go into in this letter. However, my best suggestion for dealing with all issues before us is to educate yourself on them and then educate others.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me as your President!

Love and Best Wishes!

Mary Jo Buxton, CPCJ President

PRESIDENT MESSAGE FROM THE

2012 News

FROM THE EDITOR



The goal of the Gavel is to provide you with valuable information concerning the Council of Probate Court Judges. If you have an interest or question for us to address please let us know by contacting me at candlerprobate@gmail.com or LaShawn Murphy at the AOC at LaShawn.Murphy@gaaoc.us. I wish to applaud the judges who use the listserv forum for queries that inform us all. Additionally I want to echo the sentiments of our CPJC President Judge Mary Jo Buxton who encourages us to communicate with our legislators and commissioners about proposed changes to our court system. Judge William Self, III at NCPJ and CPCJ meetings has advocated that we take such a proactive stance. Judge Woody Jordan made a similar point about the importance of knowing our unique court history

at the recent CPCJ training in Athens. In sum, we are the primary advocates for our courts. We should be alert for opportunities to defend and promote the unique role and purpose of probate courts. Our list serve helps disseminate information and “talking points” to that end. Please continue to share your thoughts and questions.

Respectfully,

Judge Tony Thompson
Editor, The Gavel

2012 -2013 CPCJ Officers



The 2012-2013 Officers of the CPCJ from left to right: Judge Darn McCoy (Evans Co.) Secretary-Treasurer; Judge Kelley Powell (Henry Co.) President-Elect; Judge Mary Jo Buxton (Johnson Co.) President; Judge L. Chase Daughtrey (Cook Co.) First Vice President

CPCJ OFFICERS

2012
News

SPRING TRAINING

SPRING SEMINAR, BUSINESS MEETING
AND BANQUET



SPRING SEMINAR, BUSINESS MEETING AND BANQUET

cont.

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more pictures cont. on next page

SPRING TRAINING

SPRING SEMINAR, BUSINESS MEETING AND BANQUET



SPRING SEMINAR, BUSINESS MEETING AND BANQUET

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MEETING BANQUET

2012
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STRATEGIC PLANNING 2012

STRATEGIC PLANNING



STRATEGIC PLANNING 2012

cont.

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As a critical component to the yearly development of the CPCJ and the services and representation it provides its membership, key Council members met to re-examine the strategic goals, assess the progress in implementing them and set goals for accomplishing those parts of the strategic business plan which had not yet been implemented. The session was conducted through a facilitator, Jim Poulakos of HKA Strategy, L.L.C. The strategic business plan will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting scheduled during the Fall COAG Conference.

CPCJ Vision - Excellence in the administration of justice in every Probate Court

CPCJ Mission Statement - To advance the common interests of and assist Probate Courts in fulfilling their responsibilities

CPCJ Guiding Principles –
Probate Courts will:

- Fulfill statutory responsibilities
- Demonstrate integrity
- Respect the independence and diversity of each court
- Function collaboratively
- Continuously improve
- Engage all members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Report from the Training Council Judge Tammy Brown, Chair

**COAG Training will be the week of
November 12, 2013 through November 15, 2013**

November 12, 2013	4:00 pm	Training Council Meeting
November 13, 2013	9:00 to 12:00 1:00 – 2:00 2:00 – 5:00	Executive Board Meeting Probate Judge Council Business Meeting Mentor Training
November 14, 2013	8:30 – 9:00am 9:00 – 12:00pm Afternoon	Overview of the JCCS (AOC) COAG Joint Training
November 15, 2013	9:00 – 12:00	Mentor Training

New Judges Orientation Training

Week of November 26, 2013 through November 30, 2013, in Athens Georgia at the Georgia Center

Probate Training for all New Judges will be Nov. 26 thru 12:00 noon on Nov. 29, 2013. Those judges with Traffic Jurisdiction will have Training beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 29, 2013 going through Nov. 30, 2013 ending at 5:00 p.m.

2013 Training Dates:

April 15 – 19, 2013 – Spring Probate Judges' Training AND Probate Judges' Traffic Training – Athens, Georgia

Tract 1 of Certificate Program (Those judges who participated in 2012 Athens Certificate Training) Estates 2; Civil Procedure 2

Tract 2 of Certificate Program (The new judges AND those who were unable to participate in 2012 Athens Certificate Training) Estates 1; Jurisdiction; Leadership

August 1, 2013 Pr– Athens, Georgia
Tract 1 – Adult Guardianship
Tract 2 – Civil Procedure 1

August 5, 2013 – Tifton, Georgia
Tract 1 – Adult Guardianship
Tract 2 – Civil Procedure 1

October 7-10, 2013 – Fall COAG Training Savannah, Georgia
Training Council is currently working on dates for Clerk's Training also.



Pictured above: Mr. Hardaway and Judge Alice Padgett, Columbia County Probate Court

On July 18, 2012, a portrait was unveiled to honor the memory of Judge Pat Hardaway who served as Probate Judge in Columbia County for 30 years until her death in July 2011. She was very active with the Council of Probate Court Judges and with the County Officers Association. She was seen as the judge who cared and would go the extra needed to help people.

*IN LOVING MEMORY
OF JUDGE PAT HARDAWAY*

HARDAWAY
HONORING JUDGE

COMINGS AND GOINGS

2012 News

COMINGS AND GOINGS

As the probate judges family changes, we want to bid a farewell to those that have departed and those that are set to leave. To those that have joined or are coming aboard, we say welcome and look forward to the camaraderie for years to come.

County:	Judge:	Former or Retiring Judge
1. Bibb County	Sarah Harris, Esq.	William "Bill" Self, II
2. Brooks County	Beth Hurst	Jo Ann Collins
3. Butts County	Betsy Hearn Biles	Vicki W. Johnston
4. Camden County	Shirley Wise	Martin Gillette
5. Candler County	Tony Thompson	<i>Charles Beasley</i>
6. Columbia County	Alice Padgett, Esq.	<i>Pat Hardaway</i>
7. Dade County	Kerri Bray Carter	Jan Ellison
8. Dooly County	Rooney Bowen	Dwayne Forehand
9. Elbert County	Stephanie Hewell	Susan Sexton
10. Fannin County	Scott Kiker, Esq.	Linda Davis
11. Franklin County	Ken Eavenson	Eddy Fowler
12. Grady County	Denise Maddox	Sadie Voyles
13. Gwinnett County	Chris Ballar, Esq.	Walter "Jim" Clarke
14. Habersham County	Pamela Wooley	Sue Bottoms
15. Hall County	Patty Walters Laine, Esq.	Patti Cornett
16. Irwin County	Ronnie McCurdy	<i>Allen Gay</i>
17. Jackson County	Sherry Moore	Margaret Deadwyler
18. Jeff Davis County	Rhonda T. Herndon/Paul McNeal	Arthur Buford
19. Jefferson County	Ashloyn P. Lampp	<i>Q.L. Bryant, Jr.</i>
20. Lowndes County	Terri Adams	Ruby Sirmans
21. Meriwether County	John Rasnick, Esq.	Stiles Estes
22. Mitchell County	Robert Richardson, Esq.	Susan D. Taylor
23. Morgan County	Charles Merritt, Esq.	Michael Bracewell
24. Muscogee County	Marc D'Antonio, Esq.	Julia Lumpkin
25. Pickens County	David Lindsey, Esq.	D. Rodney Gibson
26. Pierce County	Moye Howard	Huey Davis
27. Polk County	Linda H. Smith	Joyce B. Jones
28. Quitman County	Henry Balkcom IV, Esq.	Andrew Bennett
29. Richmond County	Carelton Vaughn/Harry James III(Esqs.)	Isaac S. Jolles
30. Seminole County	Amos Sheffield, Esq.	Amy Bagwell
31. Spalding County	Jan Hunt	DeWitt W. Simonton, Jr.
32. Taliaferro County	Clarris Stephens	Martha Mayo
33. Telfair County	Dianne Walker (Term Limits)	Betty Johnson
34. Terrell County	Carol Speir	Nancy Fryer
35. Twiggs County	Gary Nobles	Ken Fowler
36. Upson County	Danielle McRae	Gary Hamby
37. Walker County	Christy Anderson	Foye L. Johnson
38. Walton County	Bruce Wright	H. Gary Adams
39. Washington County	Russell Sheppard	Rachel Lord
40. Webster County	Jimmy Bankston/Mary Hinman	Lorene Tindol
41. Worth County	Virginia Acord/Fidilia Griffin	Sheryl H. Hall

Italics denotes Deceased.

Bold denotes will be decided in November election.

Congratulations to:

Cook County Probate Judge Chase Daughtry was recognized in Georgia Trends "40 under 40" feature of top honorees in the field of business, government, politics, nonprofits, the arts, finance and the military. Check out the October 2012 issue on page 22.

Crisp County Probate Judge, Belinda Griffin on the arrival of her first grandchild!

In Our Thoughts...

Judge William Self, II lost his brother, J. Philip "Phil" Self, age 66 of Atlanta, Georgia, October 10, 2012. Phil, graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia (BBA-Acct'g) and summa cum laude from the UGA School of Law (J.D.), practiced law in Atlanta for over 35 year. He was a Certified Public Accountant.

Retired Carroll County Probate Judge Helen Robison passed away at age 92 in September. She served for 20 years after assuming office when her husband Judge J. Gideon Robison died.

Retired DeKalb County Probate Judge, William Marion Guess passed away in July after 32 years of service. He authored the Georgia Probate Notes in addition to numerous books. Judge Guess served as Vice President and President of the Georgia Council of Probate Court Judges and as President of the National College of Probate Judges.

Judge Bob Smith, Hart County Probate Court on the loss of his wife Barbara in late June.

Judge Lee Deloach, Bulloch County Probate Court on the loss of his mother Lucille Brannen Deloach in early June. She was 97.

Judge Jan Hunt, Spalding County Probate Court lost her son Reggie Edwards in May. He was 42.

Judge Kathy Martin, Lamar County Probate Court on the loss of her sister, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Burnette Cooper in April. She was 74.

Retired Cherokee County Probate Judge, Kip McVay lost her father, Retired Air Force Colonel Birch G. McVay in April. He was 88.

Former ICJE Conference Facilitator, Ms. Sherry Carson lost her daughter in-law- Karyn Carson (Oconee County 2009 Teacher of the Year) to Lou Gehrig's disease in March. She was 42.

We also reflect and note that Columbia County Probate Judge Pat Hardaway died in July of 2011. Judge Hardaway served for 31 years with an illustrious career that continues to be well remembered.

It bears noting that Long County Sheriff Cecil Nobles died in January of this year after serving for 13. He was the longest serving Sheriff in Georgia and second longest in the nation. He was 76.

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CONGRATULATIONS
IN OUR THOUGHTS

My Chambers...Judge William Self, II



Sixty-nine days and counting.....

Due to removal of old Lektrievers (the Ferris wheel file systems) and the installment of new machines, attached are two pictures of how my Chambers have looked for three weeks. I'm stuck in my VERY small (9' x 12') library.

Man, am I going out in style!

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PROBATE JUDGES

2012 Fall Conference
November 14-17, 2012
Napa, California

Tuesday, November 13

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 14

Tee times beginning at
8:00 AM

Golf Tournament at Chardonnay Golf Club

2:00 - 6:00 PM

Registration

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Welcome Reception
*Resort Casual Attire**

Thursday, November 15

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Registration

7:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Vendor Exhibits

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM

Welcome Remarks
William Self, NCPJ President

8:40 AM – 9:00 AM

Presentation by CourtCall

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Educational Session
Speaker: David McLenachen, Director of Pension and Fiduciary Services, U.S.
Veterans Administration
Topic: *Relationship Between State Probate Courts and the Veterans Administration
Fiduciary Services: Does it Always Work the Way It Should? How Can We Improve?*

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Coffee Break

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Educational Session
Speaker: Dagmara Wycoff, Social Security Administration
Topic: *Relationship Between State Probate Courts and the Social Security
Administration: Does It Always Work the Way It Should? How Can We Improve?*

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

Questions/discussion with Veterans and Social Security Administration
Representatives

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Educational Session
Speaker: Richard Van Duizend, National Center for State Courts
Topic: *Revised National Probate Court Standards: Presentation and Discussion*

Friday, November 16

7:30 – 8:15 AM

Continental Breakfast

7:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Vendor Exhibits

8:15 AM - 8:45 AM

Annual Business Meeting

FALL
CONFERENCE

2012 News

FALL CONFERENCE

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Presentations by Sponsors
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Educational Session Speaker: Prof. Kris Knaplund, Pepperdine University School of Law; Vice Chair, ABA Elder Law, Disability Planning and Bioethics Group Topic: <i>New Developments in Same Sex Relationships and Reproductive Science and the Potential Impact on Probate Courts</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Educational Session Speakers: Robert N. Sacks, Sacks, Glazier & Lodise, Los Angeles, CA Jessica Uzcategui, Sacks, Glazier & Lodise, Los Angeles, CA Topic: <i>Hot Topics in Trust and Estate Litigation</i>
12:15 - 5:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Reception
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Banquet Dinner <i>Resort Casual Attire*</i>
<u>Saturday, November 17</u>	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	State Representatives Meeting
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Educational Session Speaker: Kimberly Papillon, <i>National Training Team on Implicit Bias (National Center for State Courts); member of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society</i> Topic: <i>What Biases (known and unknown) Do You Have as a Judge that may be Impacting Your Decisions?</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Educational Session Moderator: Michelle Condon Topic: <i>Dealing with the Press Whether Friendly or Hostile: Strategies for Dealing with Local Press Issues</i> Panelists: Judge Pat Ferchill Judge Irvin Condon Rick Nothwehr, Presiding Commissioner, Maricopa County

*No jacket or tie required; no jeans.



<http://www.coag.info/2012-fall-conference>

Probate Judges, Superior Court Clerks and Tax Commissioners will hold their training sessions at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront, while the Sheriffs will meet at the Hyatt Regency Savannah.

Probate Judges, Superior Court Clerks and Tax Commissioners will begin their training sessions on Tuesday morning.

The Sheriffs will begin Tuesday afternoon. Individual training will continue on Wednesday morning and hold our business meeting and joint training on Wednesday afternoon.

We will hold our Banquet on Wednesday evening and continue training on Thursday morning.

[illegible]DISTRICT 14
JUDGE CALVIN BENNETT